



Salmon-Challis National Forest

Fire Update

Tuesday, September 20, 2011



Contact Fire Information: 208.756.5177

OVERVIEW: Following the cold front skies will be mostly sunny. This week temperatures will continue to climb and humidity will be lower. Gusty winds are possible in the late afternoons and evenings.

- The reduced closure area around the Salt Fire opened all the area west of Panther Creek Road. The area east of Panther Creek, west of the Forest boundary, south of Williams Creek/Deep Creek Roads, and north of the Lemhi-Custer County line remains **closed**. The Lemhi County Sheriff has removed the Stage 1 evacuation alert for the Panther Creek drainage.
- Monday afternoon the closure area around the Velvet Fire was lifted and the closure area around the Ship Island and Alpine Fires was reduced.
- The area closures around the Saddle Complex remain in effect.
- Updated fire closure maps are posted on inciweb, see address below.

SALT FIRE: On Monday the Salt Fire continued to smolder and creep along the ground. With Monday's winds some low flames and light smoke were observed. No spot fires were reported. While work continues and progress is being made on rehabilitating and repairing the fireline, fire personnel ask the public to please slow down on open roads. Remember fire engines are big, they travel slowly and they require a long distance to stop, especially on narrow gravel roads.

- The area closure around the Salt Fire remains in effect.

Resources: 4 Crews; 2 Helicopters; 7 Engines; 1 Dozer; 5 Water Tenders; 265 Total Personnel

Start Date: 25 August

Cause: Lightning

Size: 20,418 acres

SADDLE COMPLEX: Resources on the fire recorded gusts upwards of 30 miles per hour yesterday afternoon; however, fire activity remained very minimal. Crews are continuing to work on eliminating hazardous snags as conditions permit along roadways and in the Horse Creek Campground area. Rehabilitation work, including erosion control, is also ongoing.

- The area closure surrounding the Saddle Complex remains the same.

Resources: 2 Crews; 2 Engines; 64 Total Personnel

Start Date: 18 August

Cause: Lightning

Size: 32,365 acres (Idaho: 16,709)

SHIP ISLAND FIRE: Yesterday afternoon, the area closure around the Ship Island and Alpine fires was reduced. Forest Trail #030 to Ship Island Lake is **closed**. Parrot Placer Camp on the Middle Fork of the Salmon River also remains **closed**. Airplane, Shoban, and Sheepeater Lakes, and Waterfall Creek and Middle Fork Trails are all **open**.

The **Alpine Fire** did not increase in size and remains at 20 acres.

Start Date: 25 August

Cause: Lightning

Size: 2,301 acres

To learn more about how to better prepare your home to withstand a wildfire, go to www.idahofirewise.org.
For more information on closures and fires on the Salmon-Challis National Forest, visit www.incweb.org/unit/46.

VELVET FIRE:

- The area closure around the fire was lifted yesterday afternoon.

Recreationalists are reminded that the fire is not out. Smoke is still visible in Muskeg and the bottom of Thicket drainages. Fire activity has decreased in the Velvet drainage significantly reducing the potential for movement toward Soldier Lakes. The fire closure has been lifted due to minimal fire activity, however standing dead trees that have had fire smoldering in the roots can fall at any time without warning. Use caution when traveling within any recent burn area.

Start Date: 12 August

Cause: Lightning

Size: 2,850 acres